

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**  
**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PERFORMING A PATTERN MATCH**  
**SEARCH FOR TEXT STRINGS**

5           A method and system for performing a pattern match search for a data string  
having a plurality of characters separated by delimiters. In accordance with the  
method of the present invention a search key is constructed by generating a full match  
search increment comprising the binary representation of a data string element,  
wherein the data string element comprises all characters between a pair of delimiters.  
10       The search key is completed by concatenating a pattern search prefix to the full match  
search increment, wherein the pattern search prefix is a cumulative pattern search  
result of each previous full match search increment. A full match search is then  
performed within a lookup table utilizing the search key. In response to finding a  
matching pattern within the lookup table, the process returns to constructing a next  
15       search key. In response to not finding a matching pattern, the previous full match  
search result is utilized to process the data string.